



**Homeland
Security**

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

27 November 2015

Top Stories

- A former Florida U.S. Postal Service employee was charged November 23 after he allegedly stole at least \$2.1 million from residents, co-workers, and acquaintances in a fake gold and diamond investment opportunity in Africa. – *WPLG 10 Miami* (See item [12](#))
- Five people were charged November 24 in connection to a kickback scheme that resulted in \$580 million worth of fraudulent billing to the government and insurance companies for patient referrals to 2 southern California hospitals. – *Associated Press* (See item [16](#))
- Nine Florida Department of Corrections employees were among 50 individuals arrested the week of November 23 for their roles in a scheme that distributed prescription pain medication to prisons in the State. – *Florida Times-Union* (See item [18](#))
- Four men were arrested November 24 for allegedly slashing an inflatable dam in Fremont, California, May 21, allowing the release of 50 million gallons of water into Alameda Creek. – *KPIX 5 San Francisco; Associated Press* (See item [23](#))

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Energy Sector

1. ***November 25, Seattle Times*** – (Washington) **Kitsap County hit hard by winds, power outages.** Utility crews worked to restore power to 15,241 customers that remained without service November 25 in Kitsap County following high winds in the Kitsap Peninsula and other areas that knocked out electricity to more than 40,700 homes and businesses across the region November 24.
Source: <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/weather/more-than-52k-without-power-kitsap-county-hit-hardest/>
2. ***November 24, KNTV 11 San Jose*** – (California) **Chemical leak at Livermore oil field may have contaminated some Alameda County water supplies.** Officials at the Hazardous Materials Division at Alameda County's Department of Environmental Health reported November 24 that an investigation is ongoing following a hazardous chemical leak at an E&B Natural Resources-operated oil field in Livermore that may have contaminated an underground aquifer used for drinking water.
Source: <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Chemical-Leak-at-Livermore-Oil-Field-May-Have-Contaminated-Some-Alameda-County-Water-Supplies-353092171.html>

Chemical Industry Sector

See item [2](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

3. ***November 24, South Jersey Times*** – (New Jersey) **Water leak prompts ‘unusual event’ declaration at N.J. nuclear plant.** Public Service Enterprise Group Inc.’s nuclear division officials reported November 24 that an “unusual event” occurred at its off-line Salem Unit 2 reactor in Lower Alloways Creek Township after a relief valve improperly opened during troubleshooting, spilling 25 gallons of water from the plant’s cooling system November 23. The plant was taken off-line October 22 for scheduled refueling and maintenance.
Source:
http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2015/11/water_leak_prompts_unusual_event_declaration_at_nj.html

Critical Manufacturing Sector

4. ***November 23, U.S. Department of Labor*** – (Texas) **Two employers cited for exposing workers to fall hazards after a worker falls to his death at a Conroe, Texas, construction site.** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced November 23 that it cited Texas-based-Ramco Erectors Inc., for 1 willful violation for failing to protect workers with a fall protection system and cited Isabel Facundo Garcia for 1 serious violation for failing to protect workers from fall hazards after a Garcia employee, supervised by Ramco Erectors Inc. died from injuries sustained at a Conroe, Texas archery and gun range construction site. Proposed fines total \$69,300 for Ramco

Erectors Inc. and \$7,000 for Isabel Facundo Garcia.

Source:

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=29079

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

Financial Services Sector

5. *November 25, Softpedia* – (International) **Researcher creates gadget that bypasses credit card chip&PIN safeguards.** A researcher created MagSpoof, a device that can accurately read and predict credit card numbers and bypass chip&PIN (CnP) safeguards by using information stored inside the magstripe (magnetic strip), which can be extracted. Data is removed and fed to MagSpoof allowing hackers to make financial transactions by placing the device near point-of-sale (PoS) systems.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/researcher-creates-gadget-that-bypasses-credit-card-chip-pin-safeguards-496697.shtml>
6. *November 24, U.S. Department of Justice* – (International) **Former California attorney pleads guilty in international investment fraud scheme.** A Las Vegas man pleaded guilty in Federal court November 24 for his role in a nearly \$5 million investment fraud scheme in which investors were told that with an up-front payment, a Swiss company called Malom Group A.G. would grant them access to international investment opportunities and cash loans. The man also illegally presented himself as an attorney to investors after losing his license to practice law.
Source: <https://www.fbi.gov/lasvegas/press-releases/2015/former-california-attorney-pleads-guilty-in-international-investment-fraud-scheme>
7. *November 24, KDKA 2 Pittsburgh* – (Pennsylvania) **Millionaire's secretary pleads guilty to fraud charge.** A former secretary of a businessman in Pittsburgh pleaded guilty November 24 to defrauding the U.S. Internal Revenue Service out of \$4 million in taxes by claiming that about \$20 million of her employer's personal expenses were business expenses including the construction of a mansion, the purchase of numerous exotic cars, and by designating staff payroll as business expenses.
Source: <http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2015/11/24/millionaires-secretary-pleads-guilty-to-fraud-charge/>
8. *November 24, KCNC 4 Denver* – (Colorado) **2nd violent bank robbery suspect arrested, search continues for 3rd.** Police offered a \$10,000 reward November 24 for information leading to the arrest of a third suspect charged in a series of crimes including a robbery at 1st Bank in Lakewood where 3 suspects entered the bank November 18 wearing masks and made off with about \$50,000 before shooting and injuring at least 2 people during their getaway. Authorities arrested two out of the three suspects who are also believed to be tied to a September bank robbery in Lakewood.
Source: <http://denver.cbslocal.com/2015/11/24/1-of-2-suspects-identified-in-bank->

[robbery-crime-spree/](#)

For another story, see item [12](#)

Transportation Systems Sector

9. *November 25, Tampa Bay Times* – (Florida) **Busy travel day starts quietly at Tampa International, St. Petersburg-Clearwater airports.** An American Airlines flight to Philadelphia turned around 1 hour after takeoff and made an emergency landing at Tampa International Airport in Florida November 24 due to a mechanical issue.
Source: <http://home.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/american-airlines-plane-makes-emergency-landing-at-tia/2255319>
10. *November 25, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Illinois) **MLK Bridge set to reopen week of Dec 21.** The Martin Luther King Bridge in St. Louis, Missouri, will tentatively reopen December 21 after it closed July 20 for a \$15.9 million maintenance project to update and repair the bridge.
Source: http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/illinois/mlk-bridge-set-to-open-week-of-dec/article_0c0d2124-591c-55cb-ac16-8a172c5c493d.html
11. *November 24, WCAU 10 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Trooper chase leads to highway shootout, fiery crash on busy Philly highway.** Interstate 676 in Philadelphia was closed for approximately 3 hours November 24 following a traffic stop that led to a high-speed chase on the interstate and an exchange of gunfire between a suspect and a Pennsylvania State Trooper.
Source: <http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Pennsylvania-State-Trooper-Shot-Shoulder-676-353161871.html>
12. *November 24, WPLG 10 Miami* – (Florida) **Former postal employee arrested in alleged investment scam.** A former Florida U.S. Postal Service employee was arrested and charged November 23 after he allegedly stole at least \$2.1 million from residents on his mail route, co-workers, and acquaintances in a fake gold and diamond investment opportunity in Africa, where he promised victims that their investments would double and guaranteed certain investors millions of dollars in returns. The suspect also persuaded victims to invest in a fraudulent infrastructure project in Africa, and instead used the money for personal expenses.
Source: <http://www.local10.com/news/former-postal-employee-arrested-in-alleged-investment-scam/36637100>
13. *November 24, EastIdahoNews.com* – (Idaho) **One child killed in I-15 accident, three others hospitalized.** Northbound lanes of Interstate 15 in Fort Hall were shut down for approximately 2 hours November 24 while officials investigated a fatal 2-vehicle crash involving a semi-truck and pickup truck that left 1 passenger dead and sent 3 others to the hospital with injuries.
Source: <http://www.eastidahonews.com/2015/11/crash-closes-northbound-i-15-traffic-near-fort-hall/>

Food and Agriculture Sector

14. ***November 25, WAGA 5 Atlanta*** – (National) **Costco chicken salad linked to E. coli outbreak.** Officials from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported November 24 that the number of confirmed E. coli cases rose to 19 people in 7 States in an outbreak linked to contaminated rotisserie chicken salad made and sold at Costco Wholesale Corp. stores.

Source: <http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/54006831-story>

Water and Wastewater Systems Sector

See item [2](#)

Healthcare and Public Health Sector

15. ***November 24, WNWO 24 Toledo*** – (Ohio) **Bomb threat forces evacuation of building at Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center.** The Mercy St. Vincent and Mercy Children's Outpatient Services Building in Toledo was evacuated and closed November 24 due to a bomb threat received by staff members. Police and the FBI cleared the scene after nothing suspicious was found.

Source: <http://nbc24.com/news/local/bomb-threat-forces-evacuation-of-building-at-mercy-st-vincent-medical-center>

16. ***November 24, Associated Press*** – (California; Nevada) **5 charged with \$580 million southern California medical kickback scheme.** Officials announced November 24 that 5 people, including a former hospital executive and 2 surgeons, were charged in connection to a kickback scheme that resulted in \$580 million worth of fraudulent billing to the government and insurance companies. Two defendants pleaded guilty and two others agreed to plead guilty in connection to the scam which involved paying dozens of medical professions tens of millions of dollars to refer patients to Pacific Hospital of Long Beach and Tri-City Regional Medical Center in southern California for spinal surgeries.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/5-charged-in-580m-southern-california-kickback-scheme/353295921/>

For another story, see item [18](#)

Government Facilities Sector

17. ***November 24, CNN*** – (Washington) **Western Washington University cancels classes after ‘hate speech’ threat.** University officials announced that all classes at Western Washington University's main campus in Bellingham were cancelled November 24 following social media threats targeting students of color.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/24/us/western-washington-university-threat/index.html>

Emergency Services Sector

18. *November 25, Florida Times-Union* – (Florida) **50 arrested in prison painkiller sting.** The Bradford County Sheriff's Office announced that 9 Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) employees were among 50 individuals arrested the week of November 23 for their roles in a scheme that distributed the prescription pain medication, Oxycodone, to prisons in the State after FDOC workers obtained the narcotics through suppliers and individuals with legitimate prescriptions.
Source: <http://jacksonville.com/news/crime/2015-11-24/story/50-arrested-prison-painkiller-sting>

Information Technology Sector

19. *November 25, Securityweek* – (International) **Reuse of Cryptographic keys exposes millions of IoT: study.** Researchers from SEC Consult released a report identifying that millions of Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices use the same cryptographic keys hardcoded into the firmware, including secure shell (SSH) host keys and X.509 certificates used for Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS), that may allow attackers to obtain sensitive information by connecting to a victim's network and leveraging the keys to launch impersonations, man-in-the-middle (MitM) attacks, and passive decryption attacks.
Source: <http://www.securityweek.com/reuse-cryptographic-keys-exposes-millions-iot-devices-study>
20. *November 24, Wall Street Journal* – (International) **U.S. fines tech firm \$1.5 million over sanctions violations.** Campbell, California-based Barracuda Networks Inc., agreed November 24 to pay about \$1.5 million to the U.S. Department of Commerce and \$38,930 to the U.S. Department of the Treasury to resolve allegations that the company and its U.K. subsidiary violated U.S. sanctions and export control laws after selling Internet security products, Web-filtering products that can block or censor Internet activity, and related software subscriptions to Syria, Iran, and Sudan.
Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com/riskandcompliance/2015/11/24/u-s-fines-tech-firm-1-5-million-over-sanctions-violations/>
21. *November 23, Securityweek* – (International) **Malicious adware uses certificates to disable security products.** Researchers from Malwarebytes detected a trojan adware, dubbed Vonteera, that blacklists 13 certificates as “Untrusted Certificates” in Microsoft Windows’ certificate store to prevent anti-malware products that block its infection as well as execute a new service called “appinf.exe” onto infected operating systems that modifies desktop, taskbar, and start menu shortcuts via a script designed to redirect victims to randomized Web sites.
Source: <http://www.securityweek.com/malicious-adware-uses-certificates-disable-security-products>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <http://www.it-isac.org>

Communications Sector

Nothing to report

Commercial Facilities Sector

22. *November 25, Agence France-Presse* – (National) **Hilton Hotels hit by cyberattack.** Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Inc. officials reported November 24 that its point-of-sale (PoS) computer systems were breached via a malicious code that collected and stole credit card information including names, card numbers, security codes, and expiration dates. Hilton is investigating the breach and advised customers to monitor their bank accounts for fraudulent activities.
Source: <http://www.securityweek.com/hilton-hotels-hit-cyber-attack>

For another story, see item [1](#)

Dams Sector

23. *November 24, KPIX 5 San Francisco; Associated Press* – (California) **Four arrested for triggering 50-million gallon Fremont water spill.** Four men were arrested November 24 for allegedly slashing an inflatable creek dam in Fremont May 21, allowing the release of 50 million gallons of water into Alameda Creek and causing an estimated \$1 million in damage to the dam.
Source: <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2015/11/24/four-arrested-for-triggering-50-million-gallon-fremont-water-spill/>



Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

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Contact Information

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Contact DHS

- To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@hq.dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.
- To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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